

STRIKE BACK

Bulletin of the Hackney Anti-Fascist Collective No. 1 Nov. 1993

Hackney Anti-Fascist Collective is a democratic organisation with the one central aim of ideologically and physically defeating fascists and their ideas. "No Platform" means stopping fascist attacks, paper sales, demonstrations, rallies, meetings and leafleting sessions. We also seek to demonstrate that fascism has no solutions to the problems faced by black or white people. Everyone, except very rich white people, will suffer if we allow the fascists to gain power.

Fascism thrives on violence and intimidation. Despite a recent council by-election victory in Tower Hamlets, the main fascist strategy is to try and control, by terror, the streets. This is why some of our supporters were happy to assist Youth Against Racism in Europe (YRE) and others in driving the fascists from their paper sale at the end of Brick Lane in Tower Hamlets on Sunday September 19th. Faced with a small but well organised group of anti-fascists the BNP and NF ran away (apart from those who hit the pavement!).

If the fascists try to carry our similar paper sales in Hackney then they must also be chased off the streets. In committing ourselves to this we recall the history of Jewish people, and others, in the borough in the 30s, 40s and 1960s and black people in the late 70s who smashed the fascists from the streets.

Some people claim that fascists have a *democratic right* to peddle their poisonous wares. We say "Where were the rights of the

millions of Jews, trade unionists, socialists, gay men and lesbians, gypsies, disabled people and dissidents who died in the gas chambers?" We say "Where were the democratic rights of those murdered by the racist filth and supported by fascists?" We say "NEVER AGAIN."

Fascism threatens everyone. Improving things by joining together to fight for better wages and conditions will not be possible as trade unions would have been abolished. In Hitler's Germany the employers made massive profits whilst workers found their wages and conditions fall enormously. Workers asked to work with a fascist should refuse and argue for a walk out and strike action to have the fascist sacked.

HAFC's main work is in trying to fight fascism some of us are also involved in the wider anti-racist struggle such as supporting organisa-

tions as Hackney Community Defence Association who are working with people attacked and beaten up by the Stoke Newington Police. We know that most racist attacks in Hackney are carried out by the police.

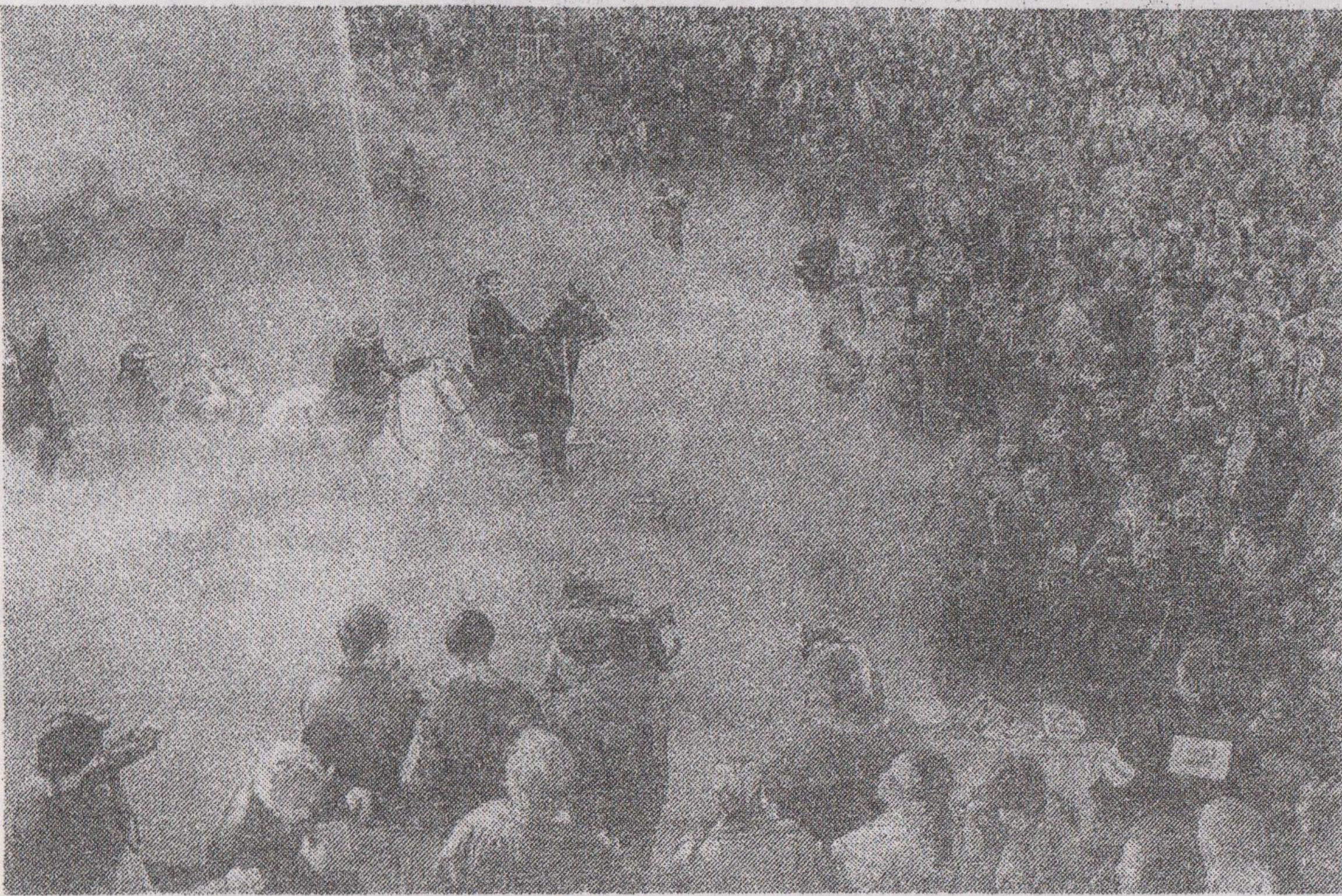
HAFC is democratic, with regular meetings for all those who believe that fascism can only be successfully fought by ideological and physical means to ensure "No Platform for Fascists".

For more information about
Hackney Anti-Fascist Collective
write to:

PO Box 24
136-138 Kingsland High Street, E8 2NS



UNITY Demonstration: Lessons to learn



The UNITY demonstration on 16th October was an undoubted show of strength of anti-racist, anti-fascist feeling growing within various sectors of the public. The organisations calling for this show of strength (YRE, ANL, IWA) provided an opportunity for about 20,000 people to demonstrate publicly their collective anger at the political success of the far right in Britain. Such a large demonstration was not ignored by the media. The TV news programmes that evening and the newspapers the following day all carried the story as headline news. In this sense the day was both significant and successful.

Mistake

Our successes, however, should not blind us to our failings. There were mistakes made and opportunities missed which we should discuss and address democratically.

Stewarding

The most serious problem, arguably, was the lack of co-ordinated stewarding. The stewarding was the joint responsibility of the organising groups. At a stewards' meeting the evening before the demonstration, apparently there were angry exchanges between key organisers. The YRE argued for a more physical presence, fronting the march with 150 well-protected stewards defending the demonstrators from possible police attack. The

ANL argued for a less confrontational show of strength, preferring to front the march with holocaust survivors and families of the victims and survivors of racist attacks. The intention of the march, the ANL argued, was to demonstrate peacefully. It was believed that heavy stewarding would pre-empt conflict and this in turn would frighten away many would-be demonstrators. The ANL's strategy was adopted.

The plan

The plan was as follows: the march would make its way along Upper Wickham Lane to the police cordon, whereupon the holocaust survivors would "ask" the police if the march could pass the BNP HQ. It was expected that the police would refuse. At this point, the demonstrators were to sit down in peaceful protest at the decision of the police. Based on this, the day was built for amongst a wide sector of the public.

The reality

Many of those who rallied on the day were not prepared for the dangers they faced. When the police charged for the first time in response to individuals throwing missiles, the crowd ran, but with nowhere to go. Many decided their only alternative was to climb the 10 foot high, spiked cemetery wall. Several hundred people took this action, and by so doing alleviated the pressure on those still

fenced in the street.

Organisation

The organisers had not prepared people for such possible action. Could a pregnant woman or an elderly person have safely scaled that wall? If we call on people to join us in demonstrations, we must be responsible for telling them honestly what to expect. This was not done for fear of "putting people off".

Police tactics

Such criticisms should not detract from the fact that the police must take overwhelming responsibility for the injuries sustained by demonstrators. We must recognize, however, that we have no control over police tactics.

Strong stewarding

What we should be focussing on, therefore, is how to organise ourselves in order to be protected from police and fascist violence. The low-profile stewarding argued for by the ANL blatantly failed to do this.

Unity

The lack of strong, co-ordinated stewarding was not the only failure of the day. Significantly, the BNP HQ is still standing firm. The central aim of the demonstration, to close it down, was not achieved. Furthermore, on the same day, an anti-racist demonstration called by ARA was held in Central London. For many people, the existence of two demonstrations, claiming to fight a similar enemy, was confusing and disheartening. The need for a genuinely united movement has become even more apparent since this eventful weekend.

Written by members of Hackney Anti-Fascist Collective

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IAN STUART DONALDSON : A HUMAN SACRIFICE ?

New BNP councillor Derek Beackon chanted his way to victory, mumbling ancient black magic mantras, according to a leaflet recently published by the London Society Psychogeographical Society (LPS). The LPS - specialists in the weird and occult - say that the BNP believe that Beackon's flat is on a ley-line and that the British Empire is located on the Isle of Dogs. Apparently it's very near ASDA.

Just after the by-election a leading fascist was killed in a car crash. Ian Stuart Donaldson was the lead singer in race-hate band Screwdriver, and head of a European neo-fascist skinhead organisation called "Blood and Honour" (which has strong links with the BNP). But according to the LPS, Beackon believes that Donaldson's death was a human sacrifice to pay for his election victory. Apparently Donaldson became demonically possessed and then spontaneously combusted in the car.

If that sounds a bit far fetched it may surprise you to know that Beackon's heroes - the Nazis - were also worshippers of cults. Many high-up Nazis, including Hitler, worshipped Celtic gods such as Wotan (God of Lightbulbs and electrical goods). And the swastika was an occult symbol - in fact it was originally a good luck symbol from Hindu religion and culture. Of course there were christian Nazis, as there are today, but cult worship is an important factor for some fascists then and now.

Whatever their mad beliefs, no amount of fascist mumbo jumbo can distract us from seeing the damage that they want to inflict upon our communities.

PRESENTING, YOUR COMMUNITY RELATIONS EXPERT!
HAND PICKED AT HENDON FROM THOUSANDS OF APPLICANTS, SUBJECTED TO RIGEROUS TESTS, SUCH AS ESSAYS ETC. IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT ONLY THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE QUALITIES...

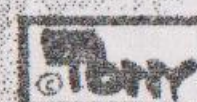
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THE RAW RECRUIT

THE POLISHED EXPERT

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ?



TAKE PRECAUTIONS ON DEMOS

Adopting a "No Platform" position involves recognising that fighting fascism can be dangerous. Some of our activity may take place on violent and heavily policed demonstrations and so it is important that we are prepared. Take these precautions when attending demonstrations:

- * Go as a **group**
- * **Don't** wear **badges** or stickers on the way to or from the demonstration/picket etc.
- * Wear sensible clothes, especially **sensible shoes**.
- * Take a **legal helpline** number. (They are usually available from stewards but have your own as well.)
- * If you witness an **arrest**, note down the officers numbers.
- * Write down **details** of the arrest as soon as possible.
- * If you are arrested, demand a **solicitor** and give no unnecessary information. (To be granted bail, you are obliged only to give your name and address.)
- * **Leave together as a group** and don't hang around in the area.

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